

Appl. No. 10/767,011
Response to Final dated October 19, 2006
Reply to Office Action of July 6, 2006

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A molded plastic article having a plastic substrate component with an adhered sheet material surface piece where at least part of the sheet material edges and sheet material surface area adjacent the edges are overlapped by a molded-on, plastic edge-covering component and the sheet material is a thin, semi-rigid sheet material selected from the group of: metal, wood or wood-based paper products.
2. (Withdrawn) A molded plastic article according to Claim 1 wherein the adhered sheet material surface piece is a thin metal sheet or foil.
3. (Withdrawn) A molded plastic article according to Claim 1 wherein the adhered sheet material surface piece is a thin wood sheet or veneer.
4. (Withdrawn) A molded plastic article according to Claim 1 wherein the sheet material is a laminate structure comprising the sheet material, an interior adhesive layer and, on the surface opposite the sheet material layer, a protective backing layer which bonds or otherwise adheres to the substrate plastic and protects the adhesive layer during the molding step.
5. (Withdrawn) A molded plastic article according to Claim 4 wherein the adhesive layer is a polyamide adhesive.
6. (Withdrawn) A molded plastic article according to Claim 1 wherein the sheet material has a molded-on, continuous plastic substrate component that also provides protective edge thickness covering for at least a part of the thickness of the sheet material.
7. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a molded plastic article having a sheet material surface piece comprising the steps of: (a) providing a precut thin, semi-rigid sheet material surface piece selected from the group of: metal, wood and wood-based paper products to a mold cavity; (b) molding in a first molding step a substrate plastic component having adhered to a surface thereof the sheet material piece having edges and a surface area; and (c) molding onto the substrate plastic component in a second molding step an edge-

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covering component which overlaps at least part of the sheet material edges and sheet material surface area adjacent the edges but not covering an area of the adhered sheet material surface piece that provides a part of the article surface.

8. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 7 where, in the first molding step, the precut sheet material surface piece is adhered in the molding step to a continuous plastic substrate and the adhered sheet material surface piece is provided with an edge thickness covering that will cover at least a part of the thicknesses of the peripheral edges of the sheet material.

9. (Original) A process according to Claim 7 where the molded-on edge-covering component is provided directly to the substrate plastic component with adhered sheet material that results from the first molding step without intermediate trimming, cutting or tooling.

10. (Original) A process according to Claim 7 wherein the sheet material is a laminate structure comprising the sheet material, an interior adhesive layer and, on the surface opposite the sheet material layer, a protective backing layer which bonds or otherwise adheres to the substrate plastic and protects the adhesive layer during the molding step.

11. (Original) A process according to Claim 7 where the second molding step uses a flow leader effect with (a) a main flow leader cavity for the edge-covering plastic component material which main flow cavity is generally around and outside the area of the peripheral sheet material edges and (b) a sheet material edge cavity that receives a flow of the edge-covering material in a direction that is generally not parallel to the peripheral edges of the sheet material.

12. (Original) A process for preparing a molded plastic article having a sheet material surface piece comprising the steps of: (a) providing a precut sheet material surface piece to a mold cavity and (b) in a molding step, molding onto the sheet material a substrate plastic component; wherein the sheet material is a laminate structure comprising a front, surface-facing layer of a thin, semi-rigid sheet material selected from the group of: metal, wood or wood-based paper products, an interior adhesive layer and, on the surface opposite

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the sheet material layer, a protective backing layer which bonds or otherwise adheres to the substrate plastic and protects the adhesive layer during the molding step.

13. (Original) A process according to Claim 12 wherein the adhesive layer is a polyamide adhesive.

14. (Original) A process according to Claim 12 wherein the outer protective backing layer material is the same as or bonds with the substrate plastic.

15. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 7 where, in the first molding step, the substrate plastic completely covers the back side of the sheet material piece.

16. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 15 where, in the first molding step, the precut sheet material is slightly smaller than the cavity and the substrate plastic provides a protective edge thickness covering that covers at least a part of the thicknesses of the peripheral edges of the sheet material.